With regard to exports, the Committee has recommended that steps should be taken to prevent leakages into the domestic market and a review of the current export drive should be taken up as and when stocks come down to 35 million tonnes.

With regard to the PDS, the Committee has endorsed an immediate shift to a unified PDS, which in its view, would bring back many of the poor and moderately poor who have been excluded from the BPL category. The unified system should be accompanied by a uniform CIP for all consumers at Rs. 4.50 per kg of wheat and Rs. 6 per kg of rice to be accompanied by a transfer of 35 paisa per kg of grain offtake as cash incentive to State Governments, conditional on lifting and accounting. This should be till stocks reduce sufficiently, after which the CIP should be increased towards acquisition cost.

The Committee has further recommended that the allocation under present Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojna scheme should be doubled and the expansion of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana be initiated.

Allotment of foodgrains to Kerala

1663. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains allotted by Government of Kerala at subsidized rate for the Public Distribution System and the Below Poverty Line families identified in the State;

(b) whether Government are aware that actual number of BPL families are much larger than the identified percentage and whether the Kerala Government demanded to increase allotment to cover the entire BPL families;

(c) whether Government would consider to increase allotment of foodgrains at a reduced rate;

(d) whether there is any proposal to insist the State Governments to procure foodgrains on their own from other States for public distribution system; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (c) The Government of Kerala is being allotted the following monthly quantity of foodgrains @ 35 Kg per family per month under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), families below the poverty line (BPL) and for families above the poverty line (APL):—

(*in tonnes*)

	AAY	BPL	APL	Total
Rice	8337	46047	113420	167804
Wheat	—	—	37325	37325

The allocation to all the States including Kerala is being made on the basis of poverty estimates of Planning Commission and population projections of the Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000. The allocation to Kerala for BPL families (including Antyodaya families) is being made on this basis for 15.54 lakh families.

As per the latest information received from the Government of Kerala, the State Government has issued 22.60 lakh BPL Cards (including Antyodaya cards) and has requested to increase the BPL allotment to cover all the identified BPL families in the State.

At present there is no proposal to change the basis of allocation of foodgrains to States under TPDS.

(d) and (e) The Central Government has been encouraging States to adopt the scheme of Decentralised Procurement of foodgrains. Under this scheme the designated States procure, store and also issue foodgrains as per the allotment made by the Central Government. The present arrangement of procurement of foodgrains by Food Corporation of India (FCI) would continue where States are not yet prepared to shift to a decentralised system of procurement, and the decentralised procurement of foodgrains would not be imposed on any State, against its wishes.